

Beware the Leaven

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Matthew 16:6 (KJV) 



So this week I found a recipe for making a fermented beverage and it got me to reflecting more on Jesus' parable of the leaven. These days we commonly call it yeast and it should come as no surprise that its properties have more allegorical meaning than just what is revealed in scripture.

Darkness

"Ad mala patrata haec sunt atra theatra parata."

[Dark theaters are suitable for dark deeds.]

A motto of the Papal Inquisition, ca. 1233.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 3:19 (KJV) 

The leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees today is expressed through the great whore religious system; the Catholic church and her daughters the denominations. The first thing that jumped out at me about leaven is how exposure to light literally destroys its cell membranes. Yeast is a fungus which multiplies best in total darkness.

Is it not the same with false doctrines? They are spread through the body of Christ by Satan's favored method of deception; twisting the meaning of scripture. The reason it's so effective is because Christians who don't read their bibles for themselves but rely on the interpretation of others are in spiritual darkness. They are not 'skilled in the word of righteousness' (**Hebrews 5:13 KJV** ) and therefor cannot see spiritual truth for themselves. When you cannot recognize truth you cannot recognize the lies either.

It Only Takes a Little...

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:6 (KJV) 

Now if we added any other ingredient to our recipe it would become a part of it, however what makes leaven different is that it is a fungus. It multiplies over and over spreading until it takes over the entire host like a virus or bacteria. In addition it only takes a little of it to do so. When I make my recipe it only requires an eighth of a teaspoon.

This is why spiritual leaven must not be dealt with casually. It is a progressive disease, a virus within the body of

Christ that can only be remedied by exposing it to the light of scripture. Yes, scripture tells us that there will be tares amongst the wheat. However once a tare (those who spread false doctrines and or live in open sin amongst the brethren) has been identified they must be dealt with swiftly and decisively.

These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

Jude 1:12 (KJV) 

These false brethren (**Galatians 2:4 KJV** ) are 'Typhoid Marys' spreading spiritually deadly disease wherever they go, just as the Pharisees and Sadducees did in Christ's time. I strongly advise you read the book of Jude from which the above verse is culled to get an in depth understanding of how dangerous these false brethren are to the body of Christ.

But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

1 Corinthians 5:13 (KJV) 

Two of the above verses are from first Corinthians chapter five which also deals directly with this situation and a good chapter to study on this topic. In the Corinthian church there was a man who was in an incestuous relationship with his own mother, and Paul took them to task for allowing him to fellowship with them. He told them they must put this man out of their church.

The same goes for any open sin in the church. Some sins are overt, some covert. It is God's job to judge what is done in darkness but we are commanded to judge righteous judgment by what we see. We cannot see a liar or someone who lusts in their hearts, but in these end times we can plainly see the adulterers, fornicators and Sodomites because they brazenly sit among us without fear of God or man!

Does it seem too harsh to put them out? Was it harsh for them to deal with Typhoid Mary by quarantine? Her disease only caused the physical death to those she came in contact with. How much more important is it to protect the body of Christ from the eternal death of Hell that spiritual leaven can lead to? Those who live in open sin must be put out of the churches until they repent, but what if your pastor will not take a stand against sin?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2 Corinthians 6:15-17 (KJV) 

Your church building (temple) is not the body of Christ, you are! Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 6:19 KJV** ) and we must act accordingly. Why? Because we will be judged accordingly! If sin and false doctrines are in your church you are in fellowship with the sons of Belial and must come out from amongst them.

